

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 /006 W  
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P R 050350Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 7154  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECSTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 18924

HA PLEASE PASS TO ACVA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJ: MOVEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: A) BANGKOK 17776; B) KUALA LUMPUR 6384

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH ICEM MOVED 1559 REFUGEES FROM THAILAND TO THE US IN JUNE, IT EXPECTS ONLY 1400 DEPARTURES FOR THE US IN JULY. IN JULY AND AUGUST, ABOUT 1600 REFUGEES EACH MONTH WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR MOVEMENT, BUT THE SHORTAGE OF TRANS-PACIFIC AIRLINE SPACE IN JULY WILL MAKE FOR REDUCED BOOKINGS FOR REFUGEES DESTINED FOR THE WEST COAST DURING THAT MONTH. THE PRIMARY SOLUTION FOR MAINTAINING DEPARTURES IS TO INCREASE THE SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCE FLOW, WHICH DROPPED MARKEDLY DURING JUNE. EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORT OF LRP REFUGEES IS ALSO IMPORTANT. IF FUNDING IS DELAYED PAST EARLY AUGUST, LRP CASES WITH ASSURANCES WILL BACK UP CONSIDERABLY BEYOND THE 632 CURRENTLY ON HAND. ANOTHER METHOD OF SPURRING DEPARTURES IS PERMITTING WEEKEND ARRIVALS IN THE US (REFTELS). END SUMMARY

2. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 2500 IPP-77 AND 78 RE-  
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FUGEES WITH ASSURANCES AND ABOUT 2000 INS-APPROVED REFUGEES UNDER THE SAME PROGRAMS WHO REMAINED WITHOUT ASSURANCES AS OF JUNE 30. OF THOSE ASSURED, ABOUT 1000 WERE ON HOLD, LEAVING ONLY ABOUT 1500 READY FOR MOVEMENT TO BANGKOK, MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, AND DEPARTURE FOR THE US.

3. BECAUSE OF THE NORTHWEST STRIKE, ICEM EXPECTS THAT ALTHOUGH AT LEAST 2100 AIR SEATS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JULY, THEY WILL BE SKEWED TOWARD THE ATLANTIC ROUTE. LESS THAN 200 SEATS WILL BE AVAILABLE ACROSS THE PACIFIC. THIS SITUATION WILL REQUIRE ICEM/BANGKOK TO EMPHASIZE FOR JULY MOVEMENT THOSE REFUGEES WITH EASTERN OR CENTRAL US DESTINATIONS. FROM AMONG THE ASSURANCES NOW AVAILABLE, THERE MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT EASTERN AND CENTRAL DESTINATIONS TO USE ALL THE AVAILABLE ATLANTIC SEATS. A FURTHER CONSTRAINT IS THAT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR REFUGEES AT CERTAIN UP-COUNTRY CAMPS HAVE YET TO PRODUCE A SUBSTANTIAL POOL OF REFUGEES ALREADY MEDICALLY CLEARED WHO COULD BE BROUGHT THROUGH THE BANGKOK TRANSIT CENTER FOR A SHORT TO THREE DAY STAY.

4. THE CHIEF REASONS FOR THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AVAILABLE FOR MOVEMENT ARE THE DECLINING NUMBER OF SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES, AND THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES ON HOLD AT ANY ONE TIME.

A. ASSURANCES-FROM THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF ABOUT 1700 SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES RECEIVED HERE IN THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY, ASSURANCES DROPPED IN JUNE TO 724. IF THIS LOWER FIGURE FOR ASSURANCES HOLDS OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS, THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES AVAILABLE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN AUGUST FOR TRAVEL WILL BE ABOUT THE SAME AS IN JULY, BUT ICEM PROJECTS ABOUT 1700 DEPARTURES DUE TO ANTICIPATED INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF AIR SPACE TO THE WEST COAST DURING AUGUST. FOR THE LONGER TERM, WE ESTIMATE A NEED IN THAILAND ALONE FOR AN AVERAGE FLOW OF OVER 1600 ASSURANCES EACH MONTH FOR THE 10 MONTHS FROM JULY 1978 THROUGH APRIL 1979, THE OBJECTIVE IS TO MAINTAIN AN AVERAGE MONTHLY DEPARTURE RATE OF 1600, IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT ALL REFUGEES UNDER PREVIOUS PROGRAMS AS WELL AS LRO WILL HAVE LEFT THAILAND DURING THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS FROM JULY 1, 1978 THROUGH JUNE 1979.

B. HOLDS-WE ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW MUCH WE CAN REDUCE THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES ON HOLD AT ANY GIVEN TIME. IT NOW RUNS 40 PERCENT. THE PRIMARY REASONS ARE MEDICAL AND ADD-ON RELATIVES WHO ARE NOT YET INS-APPROVED. MARRIAGES, PREGNANCIES, AND CONDITIONAL APPROVALS TOTAL ALMOST 400 REFUGEES AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT WE HOPE TO BRING THIS FIGURE DOWN BY ABOUT 50 PERCENT IN JULY.

5. THE RTG IS NOW UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN EARLIER PROPOSED TRANSIT SITE NEAR THE AIRPORT, BUT WE ARE STILL EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR ALTERNATE SITES. FOR THE TIME BEING, ICEM PROPOSES TO RELY PRINCIPALLY ON DIN DAENG. WITH BETTER-TIMED CALL-UPS FROM THE CAMPS AND A GREATER PROPORTION OF MEDICALS CONDUCTED UP-COUNTRY, ICEM ESTIMATES IT CAN MAINTAIN AN AVERAGE MONTHLY FLOW THROUGH DIN DAENG OF 1600 DEPARTURES FOR THE US.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.  
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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 INSE-00 ISO-00 /006 W  
-----023159 051827Z /45 12

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 7155  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USMISSION GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

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THE EMBASSY AND CONTINUE TO URGE THE UNHCR AND THE RTG TO OPEN AT LEAST AN OVERFLOW FACILITY TO COMPLEMENT DIN DAENG. MEANWHILE ICEM WISHES TO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY FROM TIME TO TIME TO TRANSFER REFUGEES ON LONGER TERM HOLD OUT OF DIN DAENG TO UNHCR-FINANCED SPACE IN MODEST PRICED HOTELS IN BANGKOK. THE UNHCR HAS ACCOMMODATED US IN OVERFLOW SITUATIONS IN THE PAST, AND WILL PRESUMABLY DO SO IN THE FUTURE. TRANSIT CENTER CAPACITY SHOULD NOT BE A BOTTLE NECK, GIVEN THE ICEM PROJECTION OF 3100 DEPARTURES FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THERE ARE SEVERAL AREAS WHERE DEPARTMENT ACTION WOULD BE HELPFUL:

A. WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO IMPRESS ON ACVA THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL SPONSORSHIPS OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS. IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY

IMPORTANT TO EXPLAIN THAT DESPITE THE RELATIVELY  
LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WITH ASSURANCES, THE NUMBER  
OF THOSE ON HOLD AT ANY ONE TIME BRINGS THE POOL FOR  
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MOVEMENT DOWN CONSIDERABLY. OVER THE LONG RUN, AN  
AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 1600 ASSURANCES ARE NEEDED MONTHLY  
TO INSURE THAT ALL LRP REFUGEES DEPART FROM THAILAND  
BY THE SUMMER OF 1979. (JVA WILL STRESS THIS POINT  
TO ACVA IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE).

B. THE CHIEF CONSTRAINT TO SENDING REFUGEES DESTINED  
FOR THE WEST COAST VIA EUROPE IS THE US DOMESTIC  
CARRIERS CHARGE FULL FARES FOR FLIGHTS ACROSS THE US.  
COULD THE DEPARTMENT MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ICEM  
NEW YORK, OR OTHERWISE, TO OBTAIN REDUCED FARES FOR  
SUCH FLIGHTS?

C. A SECOND IMPROVEMENT IN THE POOL OF AVAILABLE  
REFUGEES WOULD COME IF THE LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES  
TO BE INS-APPROVED IN JULY AND AUGUST COULD BE FUNDED  
FOR IMMEDIATE TRAVEL. PRESENTLY, BECAUSE OF THE  
LACK OF TRANSPORT FUNDS FOR LRP REFUGEES, WE WILL  
HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF INS-APPROVED REFUGEES  
FOR SOME OF WHOM ASSURANCES WILL BE AVAILABLE BUT  
FOR WHOM THERE ARE NO TRANSPORT FUNDS.

D. IN A RELATED MATTER, IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY  
HELPFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD IMMEDIATELY FUND THOSE  
WHO ARE ASSURED FROM AMONG THE 1340 CATEGORY III  
REFUGEES APPROVED IN MARCH BY INS BUT WHO HAVE JUST  
RECEIVED LRP NUMBERS. WE BELATEDLY ADVISED ACVA  
TO PLACE THESE CASES ON INDEFINITE HOLD, AND ALREADY  
632 OF THESE REFUGEES HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES.

E. PLEASE EXPLORE ONCE MORE WITH ACVA THE POSSIBILITY  
OF PERMITTING WEEKEND ARRIVALS IN THE UNITED STATES  
(REFTELS). IF BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ARE NOT WORK-  
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ABLE, PERHAPS ONE OR THE OTHER WOULD BE FEASIBLE.  
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## Message Attributes

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